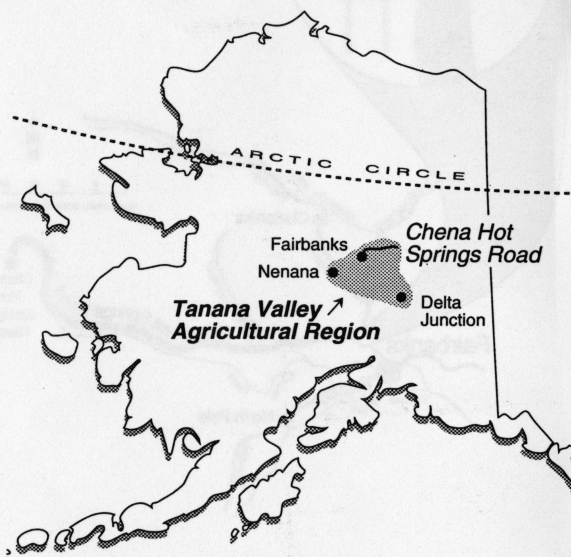


ALASKA AGRICULTURAL TOURS

Chena Hot Springs Road



Carol E. Lewis

Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station
University of Alaska Fairbanks

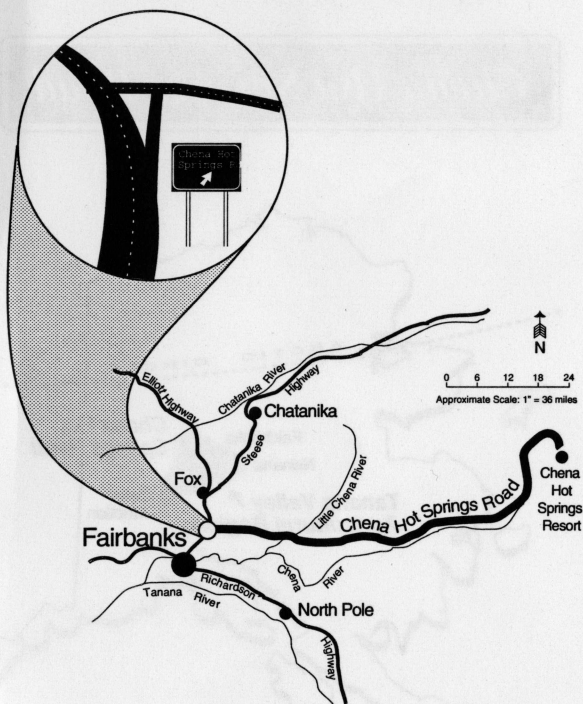
and

Roger W. Pearson

Department of Geography
University of Alaska Fairbanks

CHENA HOT SPRINGS ROAD

Entrance to the Chena Hot Springs Road is only 5 miles from downtown Fairbanks. The road provides an excellent opportunity to see an example of the diversity of agricultural production in the Tanana Valley.



GETTING STARTED

Your tour of Chena Hot Springs Road begins at the Fairbanks Visitor Center. Cross the Cushman Street bridge, continue to College Road, proceed east to the Steese Expressway intersection. Turn left onto the Steese Expressway and drive 5 miles north to the Chena Hot Springs Road entrance. Mileage signs you will see along the road may not correspond to the odometer reading used to highlight the Chena Hot Springs Road Log. Use your odometer. Moose are often sighted along the road. Watch for them and drive carefully.

Mile**CHENA HOT SPRINGS ROAD LOG**

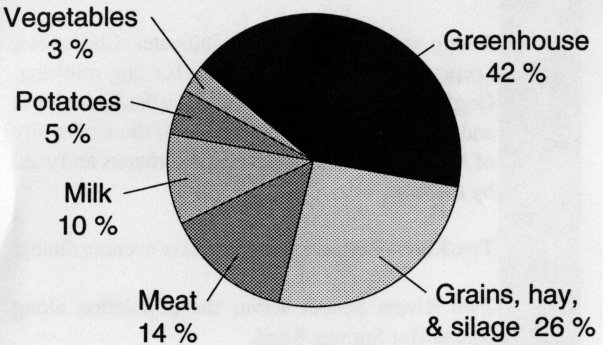
- 0.0 Merge onto Chena Hot Springs Road.
- 1.9 Wynfromere Farms rents horses for riding and touring.
- 2.8 Hay fields can be seen in this panorama. Hay is sold to local livestock owners. Until recently, potatoes were also produced.
- 6.1 Nordale Road joins Badger Road which the Richardson Highway located to the south.
- 6.3 Risse's Greenhouses, less than a mile north on Risse Road, the second largest complex in Alaska, supplies bedding plants, perennials, soil and fertilizers, and landscaping services on the retail and wholesale levels.
- 7.8 Roberts Roost Road is a viewpoint for lowland landscapes supporting mixed stands of conifers and hardwoods. Black spruce dominate with intermittent aspen, birch, balsam poplar, and white spruce.
- 8.5 Upland areas support primarily birch and white spruce.
- 10.7 Follow Adventure Road north to Apple Horse Farm.
- 11.4 The Little Chena River is monitored for flooding which can occur during spring snow melt. It is a tributary of the Chena River which flows through Fairbanks.
- 12.0 A typical lowland landscape of black spruce indicates possible presence of permafrost (permanently frozen ground). When cleared of black spruce, the lands will support agricultural production. They are now classified as wetlands and cannot be developed.

- 14.0 A dog team crossing sign indicates Chena Hot Springs Road is a popular area for dog mushing. Dog food formulations developed by the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station at the University of Alaska Fairbanks are sold in Fairbanks and used by mushers.
- 15.4 Two Rivers Restaurant is popular for evening dining.
- 17.8 Two Rivers School serves the population along Chena Hot Springs Road.
- 19.1 McKee's Farm on the left processed cattle, hogs, and sheep until late 1991.
- 22.7 Valley Center sells groceries, gas and miscellaneous supplies.
- 22.9 Turn right immediately past Valley Center to Anders Avenue to reach Two Rivers Stables. Sockeye Road leads to Schoen Farms, the largest commercial farming operation in the area producing potatoes (for local supermarkets and restaurants for baking, boiling, and frying), grain, and a variety of vegetables.
- 22.8 Tack's General Store includes a greenhouse operation, restaurant, and mercantile.
- 26.0 Chena Hot Springs Recreation Area begins here and extends to mile 50.5 along the north side of Chena Hot Springs Road.
- 57.0 Chena Hot Springs Resort marks the end of the road.

*Layout and design by Scott Penwell and Sharon Jaeke;
moose graphic by Dixon Jones.*

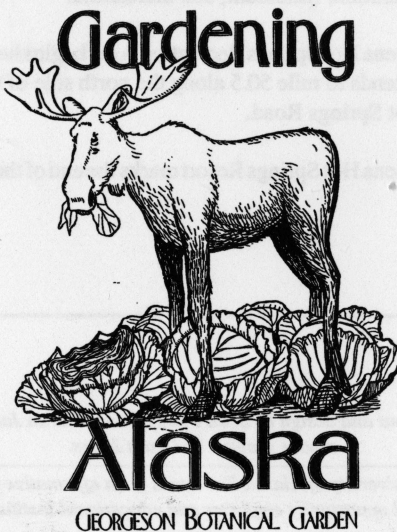
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Agricultural products



CHENA HOT SPRINGS ROAD AGRICULTURE

Agricultural production has taken place along Chena Hot Springs Road since the founding of Fairbanks in 1902. Over the years, as the Fairbanks population expanded, residential and commercial activities replaced farming. In turn, farmers moved eastward and helped extend the road to its present length. Today, Chena Hot Springs Road is a major center for the Tanana Valley's greenhouse, potato and hay industries.



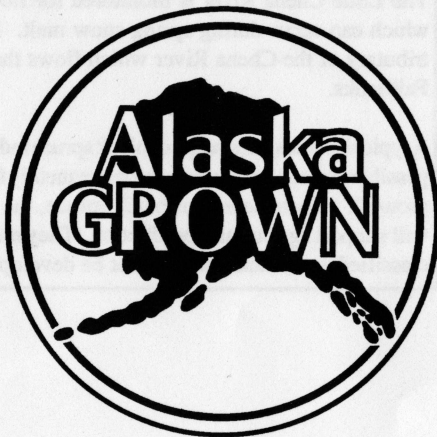
TANANA VALLEY AGRICULTURE

Agricultural production began in the Tanana Valley soon after Captain Barnette established his trading post on the Chena River. In 1917, an agricultural experiment station was established and is located on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus. The Georgeson Botanical Garden at the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station provides an opportunity to view flowers and vegetables, ornamentals, and native plant species. It is open daily in the summer.

The Tanana Valley agricultural region extending from Delta Junction to Fairbanks and Nenana, accounts for 17.5% of the value of Alaska's agricultural products; \$26.1 million in 1990. The region produces barley, oats, and brome grass for grain, hay, and silage; potatoes; vegetables including lettuce, carrots, and the cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower) as well as squash, pumpkins and melons; milk; and meat, primarily beef and pork. Greenhouses provide bedding plants, vegetables and herbs, and landscaping services.

In 1976, the Alaska legislature endorsed a policy which encourages agricultural expansion in the state. Today, Alaskan products are identified by the "*Alaska Grown*" label. The label is used by farmers whose products meet quality standards set by the Alaska Division of Agriculture.

"*Alaska Grown*" products are available in a number of retail stores in the Tanana Valley, including supermarkets in Fairbanks. From July through September, the Tanana Valley Farmers Market located near the fairgrounds is a popular source for "*Alaska Grown*" fresh vegetables, honeys, berries, and a variety of items made from local products. Several U-pick farms are also located in the Fairbanks area.



Alaska Grown logo